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# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS SPECIAL SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: W. McLENNAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Chapter ____.

## STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

(Agenda item 3)

### Inter-Agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics

1. The report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics (E/CN.3/1994/6) was introduced by the representative of the Convener of the Task Force, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A background paper on the Task Force's survey on adherence to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) was made available to the Commission, and the representative of Canada on the Task Force provided an analysis of the results of the survey.

2. The Commission commended the Task Force on the efforts made in reducing duplication among international organizations and the reporting burden on countries in the field of industrial statistics. It also welcomed the work done by the Task Force in monitoring the degree of implementation of ISIC, Revision 3. However, concern was expressed about a number of barriers, such as a lack of coding manuals and commodity listings, encountered by developing countries in implementing ISIC, Revision 3. As a result, the Commission

stressed the need for increased collaboration between international organizations, developed countries and developing countries in adopting the changeover.

3. Several countries and agencies expressed concern about narrowing the current phase of work of the Task Force to exclude construction statistics. However, it was accepted that the mandate could not cover the work at the current time as the resources of the Task Force were fully used. Nevertheless the task force was asked how its programme might be expanded.

## Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the second phase of the inquiry on country practices;

(b) Requested the Task Force to prepare proposals on expanding its work programme to cover all statistics on the production of goods except agricultural goods;

(c) Called on the international organizations concerned to give high priority to general documentation, including supporting concordances, product listings and coding manuals that would assist developing countries in addressing the various conceptual and practical issues faced in implementing ISIC, Revision 3;

(d) Requested the Task Force to prepare a progress report on its work for the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.

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